



**Remarks of  
Jeffrey N. Shane  
Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy**

**George Washington University  
International Summit on Aviation Safety & Security  
Washington, DC  
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Thank you for coming to this very important summit on aviation safety and security.

It is an honor for me to represent the Bush Administration before the many distinguished Ministers of Transportation and colleagues who comprise this Summit. I bring you Secretary Mineta's heartfelt welcome to America's capital and his best wishes for successful Summit discussions this week.

We are deeply gratified to have in attendance so many Ministers and their key policy advisors. That you are here at the highest levels of government underscores the depth of the commitment that each of your governments has made to sustain and improve the levels of aviation safety and security in your respective countries. That you are willing to join with us here today, in a proactive manner, with no immediate crisis to resolve, allows us to be partners in a very important conversation about the future of global air transportation.

So much has happened in recent years to test the vitality of the global airline industry – the slow return of traffic after 9/11, the stubborn sluggishness of many economies, the Iraqi conflict, and the SARS outbreak have placed tremendous challenges on the industry and the governments that regulate it.

Both governments and airlines are responding to changing market requirements in many different ways. One thing, however, is a constant: the bedrock need for strong governmental oversight of safety and security standards for the industry. Amid all the challenges that our airlines face, the coming recovery will only be effective if it is based on sound safety and security principles. Not only must countries be able to protect themselves from the use of aircraft as weapons, but shippers and travelers must be

confident that it is safe to use air transportation for its intended purposes: vacations, business, visits home, and the movement of goods around the world. These are all activities that support our trade and tourism industries and provide huge numbers of jobs and billions of dollars of income to workers, businesses and investors. Secretary Mineta said recently, "In 2003, we live in a global economy – one that moves at lightning speed 24 hours a day – seven days a week. Air travel is critical to making that happen."

Our good friends at the George Washington University Consortium have always understood the linkage between air transportation and economic growth. Every country needs to keep its planes flying, and to keep its people and cargo moving among nations, efficiently, safely and securely.

If we, as government officials, are to encourage travelers and businesses to continue to use air transportation in order to achieve our broader economic and social goals, we must require the highest standards for its safe and secure operation. President Bush and Secretary Mineta have both declared that safety and security are the top transportation priorities for this Administration. We believe that these goals are common to all governments. That's why this week's gathering is so important.

I look forward to this roundtable discussion and a robust exchange of ideas.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today.

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